

## CLAIMS

We Claim:

1 1. A data structure for transferring data between a hub and a connected remote  
2 node, said data structure comprising:

3 a preamble for synchronizing the remote node to the hub;

4 a control bus status field for indicating status to the remote node of a control  
5 bus at said hub;

6 a hub control field for exchanging message control information between the  
7 remote node and the hub;

8 a control data field for exchanging control data information between the  
9 remote node and the hub; and

10 a plurality of data fields for transferring data between the remote node and  
11 the hub synchronized with other nodes by a frame clock.

1 2. A data structure as in claim 1, wherein communication between the  
2 connected node and the hub is a serial transmission and the preamble includes a  
3 string of alternating ones and zeros.

1 3. A serial data structure as in claim 2, wherein the string of alternating ones  
2 and zeros is of sufficient length to extract a data transmission clock.

1 4. A serial data structure as in claim 3, wherein the string of alternating ones  
2 and zeros is of a sufficient length to synchronize a phase locked loop.

1 5. A serial data structure as in claim 4, wherein the preamble provides  
2 information for extracting the frame clock.

1 6. A serial data structure as in claim 5, wherein the preamble is three bytes  
2 wide.



1 15. A data structure as in claim 14, wherein the intercom field is twelve bits  
2 long.

1 16. A data structure as in claim 15, wherein each of the left and right audio fields  
2 is eighteen bits long.

1 17. A data structure as in claim 16, wherein the data structure includes four left  
2 and right audio channels corresponding to four stereo audio channels.

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